

REMARKS

The Office Action of April 2, 2009, has been reviewed and in view of the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

The Official Action sets forth a rejection of Claims 1-16 based on the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112. In particular, the Official Action inquires about where support exists in the original disclosure for certain claim recitations. In response to the various points raised in the Official Action, the following is noted.

With respect to the recitation in Claim 1 reciting that each longitudinal knife has a size relative to the size of the openings such that the longitudinal knives are loosely disposed in the openings with a relatively large play, Applicants respectfully contend that a similar issue was previously raised by the Examiner and overcome by way of Applicants' response submitted July 23, 2007. As set forth therein, support for the current language in Claim 1 exists at various places in the patent and the drawing figures. For example, the discussion in lines 12-16 of column 4 of the patent states that the openings in the transverse knives allow a longitudinal knife to be slide into them, with the longitudinal knives being loosely disposed in the openings with a relatively large or ample play. Also, Fig. 10 of the original patent illustrates the longitudinal knives being of a size relative to the size of the openings in the transverse knives such that the longitudinal knives are loosely disposed in the openings with play. Further, Fig. 8 of the original patent, which illustrates an alternative form of the openings in which the openings are defined by opposite recesses 39, 40, also illustrates the longitudinal knives 38 having a size relative to the size of the openings in the transverse knives such that the longitudinal knives are loosely disposed in the openings.

The amended version of Claim 7 previously presented recites "the openings being larger in size than the longitudinal knives ... from longitudinal movement." The issue of support for similar claim language was also previously discussed and overcome by way of Applicants' response submitted July 23, 2007. As set forth therein, support for this language in amended Claim 7 exists, for example, in the discussion in lines 12-16 of column 4 of the patent describing that the openings in the transverse knives allow the longitudinal knives to be loosely disposed in the openings. The openings are thus larger in size than the longitudinal knives so that this loose disposition of the longitudinal knives exists. Also, Figs. 8 and 10 of the original patent illustrate the openings in the transverse knives being larger in size than the longitudinal knives.

The amended version of Claim 10 recites the longitudinal knives being loosely disposed in the openings with a relatively large play, and means for substantially preventing displacement of the longitudinal knives in the longitudinal direction. Support for this language exists, for example, as explained above relative to Claim 1, in the discussion in lines 12-16 of column 4 of the patent stating that the openings in the transverse knives allow a longitudinal knife to be slide into them, with the longitudinal knives being loosely disposed in the openings with a relatively large or ample play. Also, Fig. 10 of the original patent illustrates the longitudinal knives being of a size relative to the size of the openings in the transverse knives such that the longitudinal knives are loosely disposed in the openings with play. Further, Fig. 8 of the original patent, which illustrates an alternative form of the openings in which the openings are defined by opposite recesses 39, 40, also illustrates the longitudinal knives 38 having a size relative to the size of the openings in the

transverse knives such that the longitudinal knives are loosely disposed in the openings.

Claim 12 defines that the openings in each transverse knife are in register with corresponding openings of others of the transverse knives and through which the longitudinal knives pass, and that each longitudinal knife comprises two legs connected by a part. Lines 12-14 of column 4 of the patent describe that each opening in the transverse knife is in register with corresponding openings of other transverse knives, and the opening permits a longitudinal knife to be slid therein. Also, the description at the top of column 5 of the patent states that the longitudinal knives can be comprised of legs connected by a part 42. In the illustrated embodiment, the legs and the part 42 form a U-shaped longitudinal knife.

Considering the above discussion, reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st paragraph are respectfully requested.

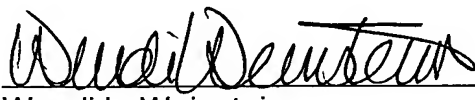
Upon withdrawal of the Section 112 rejections, the only outstanding issue will be the reissue Declarations under 35 U.S.C. 251. In anticipation of allowance of claims 1-16 and in order to expedite prosecution of the present application, submitted herewith are supplemental Declarations by each of the inventors named in this application.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application; the Examiner is kindly invited to call the undersigned counsel for Applicant regarding the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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